

March 4, 2015

Representative Joe Pitts
U.S. House of Representatives
Chairman, Subcommittee on Health
Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pitts:

On behalf of the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) and the Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition (RWMPC), thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding the March 5th *Examining the 340B Drug Pricing Program* hearing. HIVMA represents more than 5,000 HIV clinicians and researchers that work on the frontlines of the HIV epidemic across the U.S. The RWMPC is a coalition of medical providers working in Ryan White-funded clinics across the country affiliated with HIVMA.

The 340B drug pricing program plays a critical role in supporting access to HIV medications and services that support care and treatment adherence for patients with HIV receiving medical care at many Ryan White-funded clinics. Highly effective treatment for HIV now allows patients with HIV to live long, healthy lives but requires uninterrupted access to an often complex drug regimen in addition to ongoing access to comprehensive medical care and support services. Access to discounted drug prices through the 340B program allows Ryan White-funded clinics to provide reliable access to HIV treatment for their patients by supporting emergency medications during disruptions in insurance coverage and by covering medication cost sharing for 340B pharmacy services enrollees in addition to supporting other services important to managing HIV infection and achieving viral suppression – a clinical goal of HIV treatment.

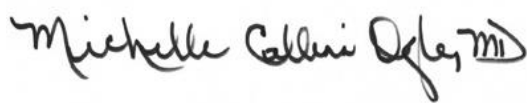
We support preserving the integrity of the 340B drug discount program so that it can continue to fulfill its mission of leveraging federal resources provided to safety-net providers who serve the uninsured and underinsured. We, therefore, strongly urge the Committee to delay any action until the Health Resources and Services Administration releases further guidance as is anticipated. We are concerned that changes to the program will have unintended consequences for patients with HIV and other vulnerable populations who rely on federally funded safety-net providers for the treatment that keeps them healthy and productive.

For questions regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to contact us through the HIVMA Executive Director Andrea Weddle at aweddle@hivma.org or the RWMPC Convener Jenny Collier, JD at jennycollierjd@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,



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Chair, HIVMA Board of Directors



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Co-Chair, Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition